

# **Southern Plains Drought Outlook Summary**

**Thursday, January 16th  
Issued: 1100 CST**

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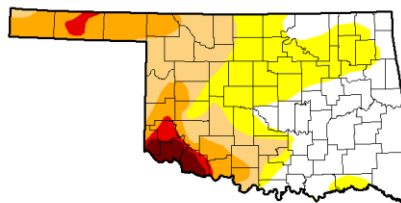
**National Weather Service**  
***Southern Region Headquarters***  
***Regional Operations Center***  
***Fort Worth, TX***

# Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma** Only 5% of state in extreme drought, down from 92% one year ago
- New Mexico** Heavy rains (well above normal) in July and September led to drought improvements. Only 4% of state in extreme drought, down from 32% one year ago
- Texas** Only 7% of state in extreme drought, down from 21% last year. Primary drought concern area is the panhandle into NW TX and also portions of SW TX.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

January 14, 2014  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	35.17	64.83	38.04	18.99	4.94	2.40	
Last Week	50.84	49.16	30.17	18.99	4.94	2.40	
3 Months Ago	41.83	58.17	36.05	14.90	4.42	1.45	
Start of Calendar Year	50.84	49.16	38.17	18.99	4.94	2.40	
Start of Water Year	21.74	78.26	43.00	17.62	4.42	1.45	
One Year Ago	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	91.90	38.96	

### Intensity

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:  
Eric Luebbehusen  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

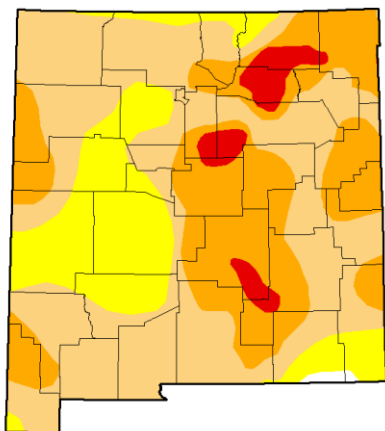
**For Southern Plains Drought Monitor go to:**  
<http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home>

# Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- New Mexico:** Despite near record September wetness, 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs remain at less than 15% of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, is at only 14% of capacity.
- Texas:** While short-term drought has improved, long-term (hydrologic) drought remains for the state as a whole. Statewide reservoir capacity is only at 64% of capacity, below the 67% capacity from this time last year. Water releases to rice farmers in jeopardy of being cut off for third straight year. Persistent drought in northwest TX has resulted in the City of Wichita Falls declaring a Drought Disaster.
- Oklahoma:** Lake Altus in southwest Oklahoma at less than 12% of capacity.

## U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico

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	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	0.39	99.61	79.94	33.13	3.97	0.00	
Last Week	0.39	99.61	79.58	32.68	3.96	0.00	
3 Months Ago	1.84	98.16	74.58	37.69	3.39	0.00	
Start of Calendar Year	0.39	99.61	75.21	32.68	3.96	0.00	
Start of Water Year	1.66	98.34	74.92	37.61	3.39	0.00	
One Year Ago	0.00	100.00	98.45	92.67	31.76	0.57	

### Intensity

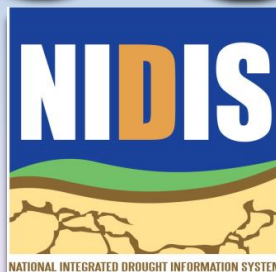
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

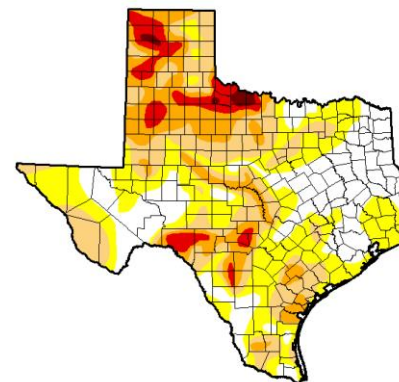


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## U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

January 14, 2014  
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	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	26.18	73.82	44.54	21.59	6.68	0.79	
Last Week	26.13	71.87	43.89	20.84	5.92	0.79	
3 Months Ago	6.10	90.90	65.25	21.73	3.19	0.12	
Start of Calendar Year	26.40	71.52	43.84	21.15	5.92	0.79	
Start of Water Year	6.62	93.38	70.95	25.08	4.01	0.12	
One Year Ago	9.48	90.52	74.01	50.49	20.84	6.72	

### Intensity

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

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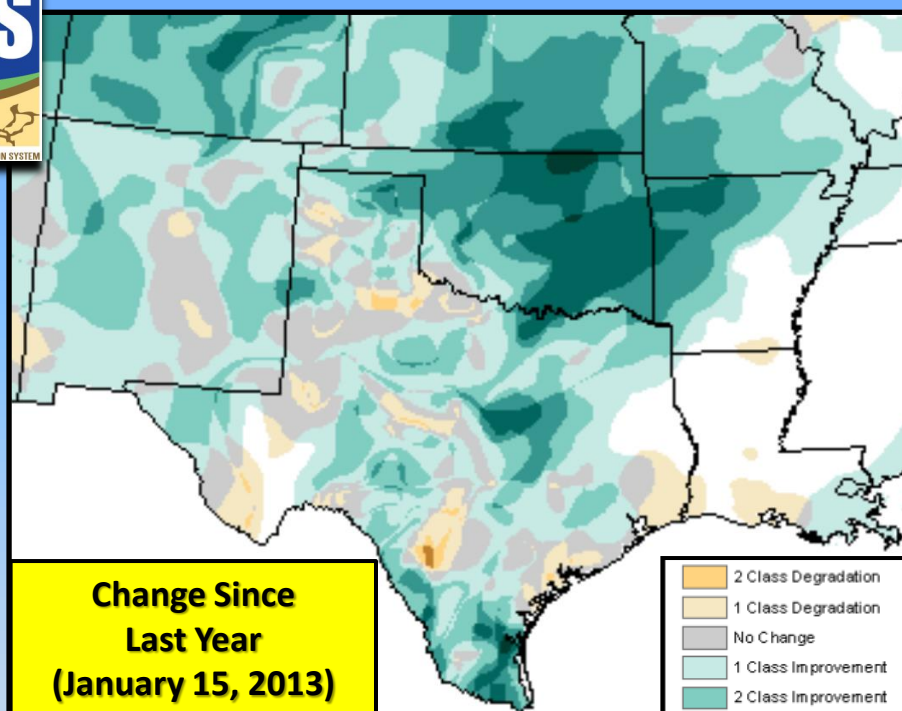
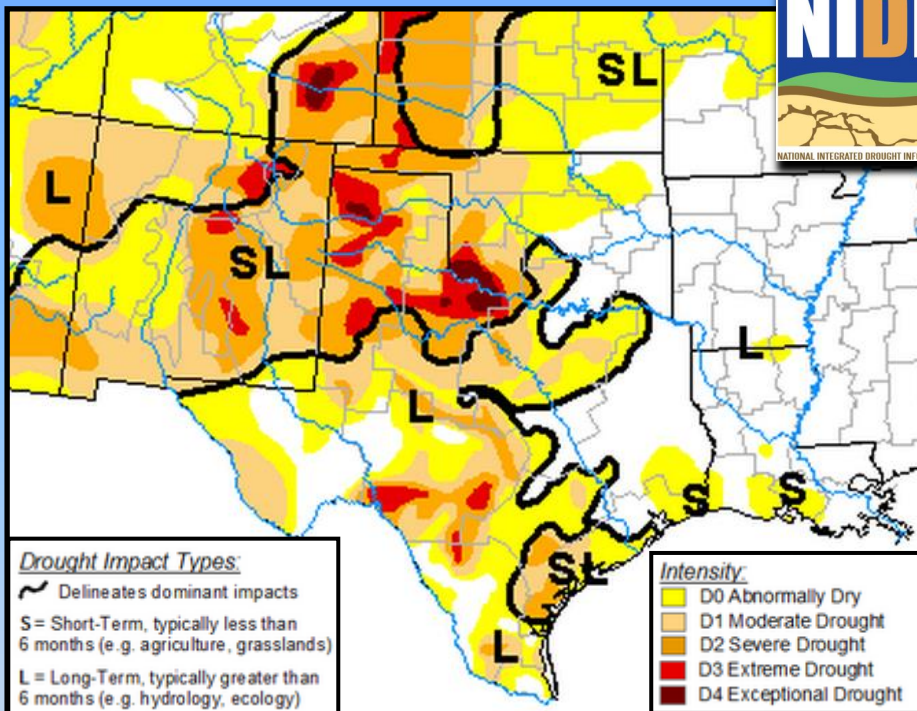
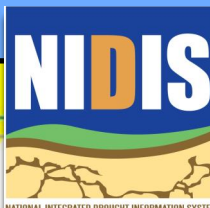
**Website:** <http://www.srh.noaa.gov> **Twitter:** @NWS\_Southern\_US  
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# Drought Monitor Released 16 January



Data valid through 6am CT on Tuesday, January 14, 2014



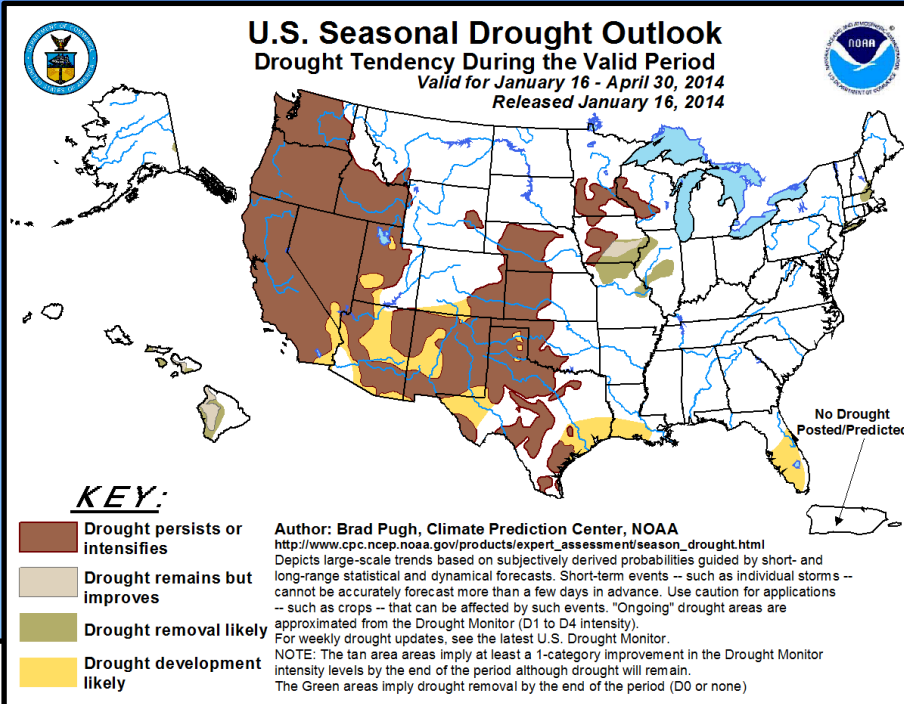
State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Texas	6.68%	5.82%	3.19%	20.84%
Oklahoma	4.84%	4.84%	4.42%	91.80%
New Mexico	3.97%	3.96%	3.39%	31.76%

**Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional)**



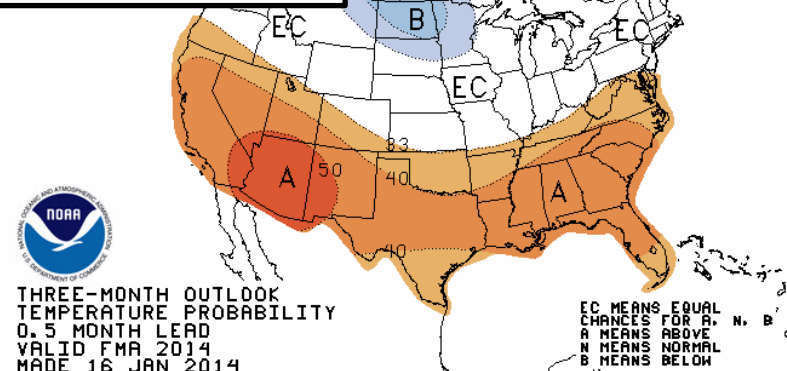
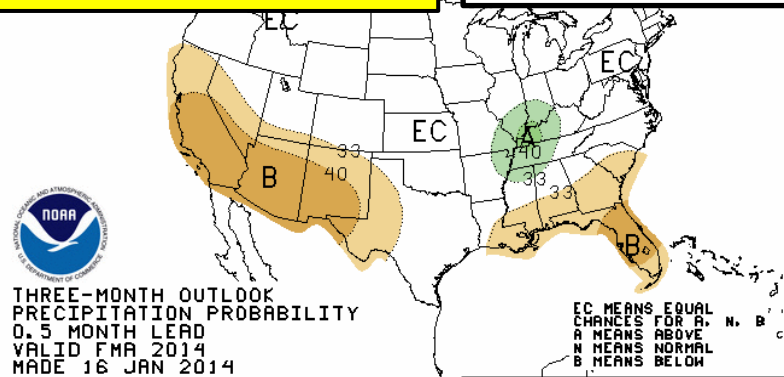
## 3-month Outlook

- Increased chances for below normal precipitation expected for southwest NM with equal chances of above, below, or near normal precipitation elsewhere.
- Generally, the winter months are among the driest months of the year in all 3 states, lessening chances for significant drought improvement.
- High probability of drought redeveloping and/or worsening across NM.



## 3-month Outlook Temperature

- Increased chances for above normal temperatures for all of NM, OK, and TX, except for south TX.
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures ... further exacerbating surface reservoir water deficits.



## Southern Plains Drought Summary

- The overall amount of the Southern Plains in extreme to exceptional drought (D3-D4) is much lower than this time last year.
- Drought forecast to redevelop across southeast TX and parts of west TX. Drought to persist or worsen in NM and much of TX/OK panhandles, western OK, west/south TX.
- Drought forecast to redevelop across portions of far west TX, and parts of NM that are currently drought free.



Information provided by:  
**National Weather Service**  
Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
Fort Worth, TX



**Phone:** (817) 978-1100 x147  
**E-mail:** [sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov)  
**Web:** <http://www.srh.noaa.gov>

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This information along with other drought  
resources also available on the  
**Southern Plains drought.gov web portal**

<http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home>

